

CONFIDENTIAL

2 March 1972

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Comments on Middle East Atlas

The following comments are in addition to those made in the conference with Mr. King on 1 March:

(1) The title will need to avoid promising more than the contents provide. "Problems" covered by the atlas are not all of them, but rather a special group.

(2) "Outside influence" if limited to a depiction of economic and military aid (which in some aspects is hardly a problem but rather the opposite) would be a very thin treatment of the subject. The title needs to be changed.

(3) "The Desert-Obstacle to Progress" also strikes me as a bad title because it strikes the wrong note. An obstacle can be moved aside or circumvented - the departure is a fact of life and is simply adjusted to. The title thus should convey the idea of the desert as a constraint or a stronger influencing factor. It would be useful to bring out here the desert situation of individual countries by a table or graph or other graphic.

(4) Why is the 1956 Sinai campaign subtended to "the Arab-Israeli war of 1967"?

(5) "Trouble spots in the Arabian Peninsula" -- I don't really like the phrase "trouble spots" -- it seems a cliché. "Vacuum in the Persian Gulf" might also be stated differently. My impression is that the vacuum is less a question now than is the forces that are supplanting or fulfilling it.

R. T. A.

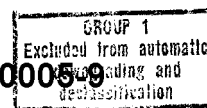
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